

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 FMC-02 INR-07

NSAE-00 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-04 OIC-02 /084 W

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P 171037Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6589

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 17623

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT,PORG, IMCO

SUBJECT: NINTH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-
GOVERNMENTAL MARITIME CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION (IMCO)
AND THIRTY FIFTH REGULAR SESSION OF IMCO COUNCIL

REF: (A) LONDON 17153, (B) LONDON 17151

1. SUMMARY: THE ASSEMBLY IN PLENARY SESSIONS FROM 3-14
NOVEMBER 1975, CONSIDERED AND APPROVED ALL AGENDA ITEMS
ASSIGNED TO COMMITTEE I (ADMINISTRATIVE, LEGAL AND FI-
NANCIAL), COMMITTEE II (TECHNICAL) AND THOSE SPECIFIC
AGENDA ITEMS NOT ASSIGNED TO COMMITTEES. AGENDA ITEM 29
WAS DELETED BY THE ASSEMBLY ON 4 NOVEMBER AFTER IT BECAME
APPARENT THAT THE SUBJECT WAS NO LONGER RELEVANT. THE
REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE AND TWO NON AGENDA
RELATED RESOLUTIONS, ONE ON IMCO/ILO JURISDICTIONAL
MATTERS RELATING TO SAFETY ON SUB-STANDARD SHIPS AND ONE
ON INTRODUCTION OF SPANISH AS A WORKING LANGUAGE IN IMCO,
WERE ALSO CONSIDERED AND ADOPTED. REPORTS OF ASSEMBLY
ACTIONS FORWARDED SEPTTEL AS INDICATED ON AGENDA ITEMS
10 (CONVENTION AMENDMENTS) SEPTTEL PENDING, 13 (HEAD-
QUARTERS FACILITY) SEPTTEL PENDING, 24 (ELECTIONS) LONDON
17538, AND COMMITTEE II (ITEMS 7(A), (B) AND (C), 8,
12(A) AND (C), 17, 20, 21 AND 22) LONDON 17537. END
SUMMARY.

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2. (A) AGENDA ITEM 4. THE ASSEMBLY HEARD FROM THE SEC

GEN OF THE COLSIDERABLE SUCCESS HE HAD HAD IN
EXTRACTING PAYMENT OF ARREARS, ESPECIALLY WITH RESPECT
TO THE PAYMENT BY PANAMA OF ITS SIZEABLE ARREARS. IN
LIGHT OF THIS, AND CONSISTENT WITH THE USUAL POSTURE
THAT IMCO ASSEMBLIES HAVE STRUCK ON THIS QUESTION, IT
WAS DECIDED BY ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ONCE AGAIN TO WAIVE
FOR THE 9TH AQSEMBLY THE PROVISION OF ARTICLE 42 OF THE
IMCO CONVENTION SUSPENDING THE VOTING RIGHTS OF DELIN-
QUENT
MEMBERS. ONCE AGAIN, TOO, THE ASSEMBLY SALVED ITS
CONSCIENCE BY WARNING DARKLY THAT THERE WOULD BE STRICT
ENFORCEMENT OF ARTICLE 42 IN THE FUTURE.

(B) AGENDA ITEM 12(C). THE ASSEMBLY NOTED THE
REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFER-
ENCE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL MARITIME
SATALLITE SYSTEMS (INMARSAT), THE INTER-SESSIONAL WORK
WHICH HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED AND THE PROVISION WHICH THE
CONFERENCE REQUESTED FOR A RESUMED SESSION FEBRUARY 9-
27, 1976. PROVISIONS FOR THIS WERE THEREAFTER APPROVED
UNDER THE 1976-77 WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET.

(C) AGENDA ITEM 14. THE ASSEMBLY INCREASED THE
FUNDING OF THE WORKING CAPITAL FUND FOR THE
1976-77 FINANCIAL PERIOD, ESTABLISHING IT AT \$250,000.

(D) AGENDA ITEM 15. THE ASSEMBLY APPROVED THE
ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT REPORTS FOR THE 1972-73 AND 1974-75
FINANCIAL PERIODS.

(E) AGENDA ITEM 16. THE ASSEMBLY APPROVED
A SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION FOR 1975 OF \$220,000,
ESTABLISHING THIS AS A CEILING WITHIN WHICH ONLY THE
ACTUAL AMOUNT REQUIRED WOULD BE ASSESSED TO MEMBERS
ONCE THE BOOKS ARE CLOSED ON THE YEAR.

(F) AGENDA ITEM 18. THE ASSEMBLY AGREED ONCE
AGAIN TO DEFER CONSIDERATION OF EXPRESSING THE IMCO
BUDGET IN STERLING.

(G) AGENDA ITEM 19. INTERVENTIONS WERE MADE BY
MEXICO, ROMANIA AND USSR EXPRESSING CON-
CERN OVER THE EXPANDING IMCO BUDGET AND THE CONSEQUENT
INCREASE IN ASSESSMENTS TO MEMBER STATES. MEXICO AB-
STAINED FROM APPROVING THE BUDGET AND ASSESSMENTS
PENDING APPROVAL BY THE APPROPRIATE MEXICAN LEGISLATIVE
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BODY. ROMANIA ADVISED THAT IT WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE
INCREASED ASSESSMENT IN 1976/77 TO SUPPORT THE BUDGET
WHILE CZECHOSLOVAKIA CAUTIONED THAT THE RATE OF BUDGET
INCREASE MUST BE SLOWED DOWN IN THE FUTURE. OBSERVING
ASSEMBLY DECISIONS TO ACCOMMODATE CHINESE LANGUAGE
REQUIREMENTS, EGYPT REQUESTED THAT ARABIC ALSO BE IN-
TRODUCED AS AN OFFICIAL LANGUAGE. USDEL RAISED THE
QUESTION WHETHER THE BUDGET WAS THE PROPER FORUM TO

APPROVE NEW OFFICIAL LANGUAGES. THE US FURTHER SUG-
GESTED THAT PROPOSITION APPROPRIATELY WOULD HAVE TO BE
INTRODUCED AS A PROPOSAL FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE

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CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 FMC-02 INR-07

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P 171037Z NOV 75
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6590

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ASSEMBLY APART FROM BUDGETARY DISCUSSIONS. IT WAS DE-
CIDED THAT SPANISH WOULD BE REGARDED AS A WORKING LAN-
GUAGE OF THE ORGANIZATION BEGINNING WITH THE 1978-79
BIENNIUM. FRANCE SUGGESTED THAT ONE UNALLOCATED MEETING
WEEK IN 1977 BE SPECIFICALLY TAGGED FOR THIS PURPOSE OR
THAT THE CONFERENCE ON FISHING VESSEL SAFETY IN 1977
BE REDUCED FROM FOUR TO THREE WEEKS. STRONG OPPOSITION
TO FISHING VESSEL CONFERENCE REDUCTION WAS VOICED. THE
ASSEMBLY VOTED 52 (US), 0, 11 TO ASSIGN THE UNALLOCATED
MEETING WEEK TO THE WORKING GROUP.

(H) AGENDA ITEM 20. AFTER A PERUVIAN PROPOSAL
TO EXAMINE IN DEPTH THE SCOPE OF IMCO ACTIVITIES VIS-A-
VIS LAW OF THE SEA RECEIVED NO SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT, THE
ASSEMBLY NOTED WITHOUT FURTHER DEBATE THE SEC. GEN'S
REPORT ON IMCM'S RELATIONS WITH THE UN AND THE SPECIALI-
ZED AGENCIES DURING THE PAST BIENNIUM.

(I) AGENDA ITEM 23. THE ASSEMBLY NOTED WITHOUT
COMMENT THE REPORT OF THE SEC. GEN. ON ACTIVITIES AND
REPORTS OF THE JOINT INSPECTION UNIT.

(J) AGENDA ITEM 25. ERTEL (POLAND) AND CLAPPIN (US) WERE RE-ELECTED BY THE ASSEMBLY AS THE MEMBER AND . ALTERNATE MEMBER RESPECTIVELY OF THE IMCO STAFF PENSION COMMITTEE.

(K) AGENDA ITEM 26. THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR
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GENERAL OF THE UK WAS RE-APPOINTED AS EXTERNAL AUDITOR FOR THE FOUR-YEAR PERIOD COMMENCING 1 JULY 1976.

(L) AGENDA ITEM 27. THE ASSEMBLY NOTED WITHOUT DISCUSSION THE LMCO PROGRAM ON PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION.

(M) NO SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION ON ADOPTION OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT OTHER THAN PRO FORMA RHETORIC BY THE SOVIET BLOC AND PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF CHINA RELATIVE TO KMREAN AND VIET NAMESE REPRESENTATION QUESTIONS.

(N) LIBERIA INTRODUCED A RESOLUTION RELATIVE TO THE IMCO/ILO JURISDICTIONAL MATTERS THAT HE FIRST RAISED IN COMMITTEE II ON 6 NOVEMBER. (RE LONDON 17151 AND STATE 26587L.). THE RESOLUTION FIRMLY ESTABLISHES IMCO AS HAVING PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROMOTING MARITIME SAFETY AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SAFETY STANDARDS WITH REGARD TO SUB-STANDARD SHIPS. RECOGNIZING THAT ILO ALSO HAS A LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN MARITIME SAFETY, THE RESOLUTION AFFIRMS THE WILLINGNESS OF IMCO TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH ILO IN MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST INCLUDING THE FULL EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION WHILE AT THE SAME TIME EMPHASIZING THE PREEMINENCE OF IMCO IN MATTERS RELATING TO SAFETY ON SUB-STANDARD SHIPS. AFTER PROTRACTED DISCUSSION AND MINOR CHANGES TO THE RESOLUTION, THE ASSEMBLY ADOPTED THE AMENDED RESOLUTION 3L (US, 6, 25.

(O) A LATIN AMERICAN RESOLUTION TO AMEND RULE 29 TO INCLUDE SPANISH AS A WORKING LANGUAGE OF IMCO QUICKLY WON OVERWHELMING WARM SUPPORT AND WAS ADOPTED WITHOUT OPPOSITION 64 (US), 0, 3.

(P) IN ITS 35TH REGULAR SESSION HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER, THE COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY RE-ELECTED EDWARDS (USA) AS C AIRMAN AND ERTEL (POLAND) AS VICE PRESIDENT.

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